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FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

DICKERSON, CHAD S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2625

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/801,189	NEWELL ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Chad Dickerson	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>see attachment</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 14 is objected to because of the following informalities:
 - Re claim 1: on line 1 of the claim, the word "imagine" is suggested to be changed to -- imaging --.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 8-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pavlovic '379 (US Pat No 5715379).

Re claim 8: Pavlovic '379 discloses a method of processing a print batch in a print device, comprising:

storing a print batch that includes a plurality of print jobs (i.e. Pavlovic '379 discloses the spool (106) being used to store the print job's PDL, which can include the actual image data to be printed and the job description. The files used to produce an image can be considered as a job since these separate files in different formats

correspond to the formation of an individual image per file; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46—col. 3, line 67);

evaluating characteristics of said print batch to determine a pick order (i.e. in the system, the system control evaluates, or interprets that specification of the job description and determines the type of media picked, or chosen, for the image to be printed on; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61);

picking media sheets according to said pick order (i.e. in accordance with the job description, the system control chooses the tray that contains the specified paper to be used in the feeding process for imaging; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61);

evaluating said characteristics to determine a transfer order of said print jobs from a formatter to an imaging component (i.e. in the system, the decomposition facility (110) is considered to be the formatter since it is used to format incoming PDL into a uncompressed bitmap. The system control evaluates the job description and determines which jobs from the buffer manager or the common image pool is to be transferred to the printer hardware (114). This decision of transferring the jobs to the printer hardware is based on the stream handles and the job description that affects the stream handles. In the conventional system, the decomposer is used to store the data that is RIPed and then transfer that information to the image forming part of the printing system; see figs. 1-3; col. 7, line 10 — col. 10, line 42);

transferring said print jobs from said formatter to said imaging component based on said transfer order (i.e. In the conventional system, the decomposer is used to store

the data that is RIPPed and then transfer that information to the image forming part of the printing system. This performs the feature of transferring the jobs from the formatter to the imaging component in the printing system. In the overall invention, the jobs are transferred from the buffer manager or the common image pool to the printer hardware based on the transfer order decided by the system control using the stream handles concept and the information from the job description; see figs. 1-3; col. 7, line 10 – col. 10, line 42);

forming images corresponding to said print jobs on media sheets (i.e. the printer hardware is used to form images that correspond to the print jobs on the sheets designated by the job description; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61);

evaluating said characteristics to determine a delivery order of said media sheets (i.e. in the system, when the job description is evaluated, or interpreted, by the system control, the order of delivery of the printed images from the printer to the finisher in the system is determined using the stream handling concept. Whichever stream handle is chosen first is the stream of data that is first printed and finished; see figs. 1-3; col. 7, line 10 – col. 10, line 42); and

delivering said media sheets to an output portion of said print device based on said delivery order (i.e. in the system, the sheets that are printed are then delivered to the part of the printing system that performs the collation or stapling of the printed sheets; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61 and col. 7, line 10 – col. 10, line 42).

Re claim 9: The teachings of Pavlovic '379 are disclosed above.

Pavlovic '379 discloses the method of claim 8, wherein said print batch is stored on a data storage device of said formatter (i.e. in the conventional system, the decomposed print jobs can be stored on the buffer on the decomposer until it is requested by other parts of the printing system. Used in the system of Pavlovic '379 is common image pools or buffer managers that can store more information to free up the decomposer; see figs. 1-3; col. 7, line 10 – col. 10, line 42).

Re claim 10: The teachings of Pavlovic '379 are disclosed above.

Pavlovic '379 discloses the method of claim 8, wherein said characteristics comprise an image receiving media type, an image size, an image processing time, or an image forming time (i.e. the job description has the type of media that will receive the image; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61).

Re claim 11: The teachings of Pavlovic '379 are disclosed above.

Pavlovic '379 discloses the method of claim 8, wherein said characteristics are evaluated by an imaging component to determine said pick order (i.e. based on the job description, the size of the paper to be used is picked by the printing system. The paper

picked is from the paper trays used to feed print media into the printing system; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46—col. 3, line 67),

said transfer order (i.e. in the system, the different decomposers have different rates of decomposition depending on the complexity of the image data and other factors. However, the order of the print files being transferred to the printer hardware (114) is based on the stream handles assigned by the buffer manager (120). In the example listed in column 9, since the pages of the formats require stapling, the system determines to first transfer stream handle IV to the printer hardware and performs the transfer in reverse order to stream handle I. Because of the characteristic of stapling the sheets, the stream handles are called in reverse order; see figs. 1-3; col. 7, line 10 – col. 10, line 42),

and said delivery order (i.e. since the files transferred to the printer hardware are in reverse order, the delivery of the respective files to be printed and finished by the printer hardware and the finisher are also in reverse order. In this case, the job in the last format, Postscript file 2, is printed and stapled first since the pages are stacked face-up and stapled in the correct order with the first job on top of the rest of the finished files. This process determines when the printed images are to be sent to the finisher part of the printing system; see figs. 1-3; col. 7, line 10 – col. 10, line 42).

Re claim 12: The teachings of Pavlovic '379 are disclosed above.

Pavlovic '379 discloses the method of claim 8, wherein a print engine picks said media sheets (i.e. in the system, the system control is in the printer system and printer hardware is used to feed the print media from a certain tray when the printer hardware is instructed by the system control; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61).

Re claim 13: The teachings of Pavlovic '379 are disclosed above.

Pavlovic '379 discloses the method of claim 8, wherein a print engine forms said images and delivers said media sheets (i.e. since the printer hardware is used to perform the feature of printing the images on printing sheets and to deliver these images to the finisher part of the printing system to provide finishing capability to the sheets, the above feature is performed; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61).

Re claim 14: The teachings of Pavlovic '379 are disclosed above.

Pavlovic '379 discloses the method of claim 8, forming said images includes using said imaging component to convert data contained in said print job to commands (i.e. in the system, the marker, is used to take the PDL that makes up the image and the job specification and convert these components of the file into an instruction for the printer hardware; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61);

conveying said commands to a print engine, and forming said images in response to said commands (i.e. the marker (112) is used to send the instructions of the

print file to the printer hardware in order for the printer hardware to accept the instructions and print the image that is described by the instructions; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61).

Re claim 15: Pavlovic '379 discloses a print device, comprising:

a formatter configured to pool a batch of print data (i.e. in the conventional system, the decomposed print jobs can be stored on the buffer on the decomposer until it is requested by other parts of the printing system. Used in the system of Pavlovic '379 is common image pools or buffer managers that can store more information to free up the decomposer; see figs. 1-3; col. 7, line 10 — col. 10, line 42), wherein said batch includes a plurality of print jobs (i.e. in the system, the files are considered as a print job since these involve forming at least one image per format. The system can provide for a plurality of files in the system; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61);

a processor having an imaging component residing thereon (i.e. the system controller is used as the processor and the processor performs the feature of the imaging component, which is the evaluation or the interpretation of the job specification. Therefore, the system control performs the feature of the imaging component; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61), wherein said imaging component is configured to access said batch information (i.e. the system control access the files in the spool (106) and checks the job specification that is related to each file. The job specification is used to help determine a lot of functions in relation to the files that are combined into one

print job; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61 and col. 7, line 10 – col. 10, line 42) and

to independently determine a pick order (i.e. based on the job description, the size of the paper to be used is picked by the printing system. The paper picked is from the paper trays used to feed print media into the printing system; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46—col. 3, line 67),

a transfer order (i.e. in the system, the different decomposers have different rates of decomposition depending on the complexity of the image data and other factors. However, the order of the print files being transferred to the printer hardware (114) is based on the stream handles assigned by the buffer manager (120). In the example listed in column 9, since the pages of the formats require stapling, the system determines to first transfer stream handle IV to the printer hardware and to perform this transfer in reverse order to stream handle I. Because of the characteristic of stapling the sheets, the stream handles are called in reverse order; see figs. 1-3; col. 7, line 10 – col. 10, line 42), and

a delivery order of said print jobs (i.e. since the files transferred to the printer hardware are in reverse order, the delivery of the respective files to be printed and finished by the printer hardware and the finisher are also in reverse order. In this case, the job in the last format, Postscript file 2, is printed and stapled first since the pages are stacked face-up and stapled in the correct order with the first job on top of the rest of the

finished files. This process determines when the printed images are to be sent to the finisher part of the printing system; see figs. 1-3; col. 7, line 10 – col. 10, line 42); and

a print engine configured form images on a plurality of media corresponding to said print jobs (i.e. since the printer hardware is used to perform the feature of printing the images on printing sheets in relation to the files in the system, the above feature is performed; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61).

Re claim 16: The teachings of Pavlovic '379 are disclosed above.

Pavlovic '379 discloses the print device of claim 15, wherein said formatter is configured to perform raster image processing (i.e. the decomposers or decomposition facility (110) is used to decompress data and convert data into a uncompressed bitmap, since the PDL information is converted into the bitmap information to be printed by the printer hardware; see figs. 1-3; col. 4, line 1 – col. 5, line 36).

Re claim 17: The teachings of Pavlovic '379 are disclosed above.

Pavlovic '379 discloses the print device of claim 15, wherein said print engine comprises an inkjet print head (i.e. with the system able to perform printing using an ink-jet marking engine, it is understood that a ink-jet print head would be used with the ink-jet marking engine; see figs. 1-3; col. 4, line 1 – col. 5, line 36).

Re claim 18: The teachings of Pavlovic '379 are disclosed above.

Pavlovic '379 discloses the print device of claim 15, wherein said print engine is configured to pick said media according to said pick order (i.e. in the system, the system control is in the printer system and printer hardware is used to feed the print media from a certain tray when the printer hardware is instructed by the system control; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61) and to deliver said media according to said delivery order (i.e. since the printer hardware is used to perform the feature of printing the images on printing sheets and to deliver these images to the finisher part of the printing system to provide finishing capability to the sheets, the above feature is performed; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61).

Re claim 19: Pavlovic '379 discloses a printing system, comprising:

means for evaluating characteristics of a print batch (i.e. the system control (108) is used to evaluate, or interpret, the job description of the file, considered to be the characteristics, and use this information to determine properties of the file or files in the overall print job; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61); and

means for independently determining a pick order (i.e. based on the job description, the size of the paper to be used is picked by the printing system. The paper

picked is from the paper trays used to feed print media into the printing system; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46—col. 3, line 67),

a transfer order (i.e. in the system, the different decomposers have different rates of decomposition depending on the complexity of the image data and other factors. However, the order of the print files being transferred to the printer hardware (114) is based on the stream handles assigned by the buffer manager (120). In the example listed in column 9, since the pages of the formats require stapling, the system determines to first transfer stream handle IV to the printer hardware and to perform this transfer in reverse order to stream handle I. Because of the characteristic of stapling the sheets, the stream handles are called in reverse order; see figs. 1-3; col. 7, line 10 – col. 10, line 42), and

a delivery order (i.e. since the files transferred to the printer hardware are in reverse order, the delivery of the respective files to be printed and finished by the printer hardware and the finisher are also in reverse order. In this case, the job in the last format, Postscript file 2, is printed and stapled first since the pages are stacked face-up and stapled in the correct order with the first job on top of the rest of the finished files. This process determines when the printed images are to be sent to the finisher part of the printing system; see figs. 1-3; col. 7, line 10 – col. 10, line 42)

based on said characteristics (i.e. these functions are all dependent on the job description sent to the printing system; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46—col. 3, line 67).

Re claim 20: The teachings of Pavlovic '379 are disclosed above.

Pavlovic '379 discloses the system of claim 19, and further comprising means for picking media according to said pick order (i.e. once the sheet to use is determined from the system control, the printing system is notified of the tray to feed the paper to be used to feed the media in order to print on the sheet; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61),

transferring print jobs of said print batch according to said transfer order (i.e. using the stream handles that are designated by the system control to the buffer manager (120), the system transfers the print files from the buffer or pool to the printer hardware for printing according to the order chosen by the system control though the buffer; see figs. 1-3; col. 7, line 10 – col. 10, line 42), and

delivering said media according to said delivery order (i.e. the sheets with the printed images are also delivered to the finishing part of the printing system in the same order as the printing files where sent to the printing hardware for printing; see figs. 1-3; col. 7, line 10 – col. 10, line 42).

Re claim 21: The teachings of Pavlovic '379 are disclosed above.

Pavlovic '379 discloses the system of claim 19, and further comprising means for forming an image on said media (i.e. since the printer hardware is used to perform the

feature of printing the images on printing sheets in relation to the files in the system, the above feature is performed; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pavlovic '379 in view of Kageyama '117 (US Pat No 7092117).

Re claim 1: Pavlovic '379 discloses a method of processing a print batch in a print device, comprising:

storing a plurality of print jobs contained in said print batch (i.e. Pavlovic '379 discloses the spool (106) being used to store the print job's PDL, which can include the actual image data to be printed and the job description. The files used to produce an image can be considered as a job since these separate files in different formats correspond to the formation of an individual image per file; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46—col. 3, line 67);

evaluating said characteristics of said print jobs (i.e. the system control (108) is used to evaluate, or interpret, the job description of the file, considered to be the

characteristics, and use this information to determine properties of the file or files in the overall print job; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61); and

independently determining a pick order (i.e. based on the job description, the size of the paper to be used is picked by the printing system. The paper picked is from the paper trays used to feed print media into the printing system; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46—col. 3, line 67),

a transfer order (i.e. in the system, the different decomposers have different rates of decomposition depending on the complexity of the image data and other factors. However, the order of the print files being transferred to the printer hardware (114) is based on the stream handles assigned by the buffer manager (120). In the example listed in column 9, since the pages of the formats require stapling, the system determines to first transfer stream handle IV to the printer hardware and to perform this transfer in reverse order to stream handle I. Because of the characteristic of stapling the sheets, the stream handles are called in reverse order; see figs. 1-3; col. 7, line 10 — col. 10, line 42), and

a delivery order (i.e. since the files transferred to the printer hardware are in reverse order, the delivery of the respective files to be printed and finished by the printer hardware and the finisher are also in reverse order. In this case, the job in the last format, Postscript file 2, is printed and stapled first since the pages are stacked face-up and stapled in the correct order with the first job on top of the rest of the finished files.

This process determines when the printed images are to be sent to the finisher part of the printing system; see figs. 1-3; col. 7, line 10 – col. 10, line 42)

based, at least in part, on said characteristics (i.e. these functions are all dependent on the job description sent to the printing system; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46—col. 3, line 67).

However, Pavlovic '379 fails to specifically teach storing characteristics of a plurality of print jobs.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Kageyama '117. Kageyama '117 discloses storing characteristics of a plurality of print jobs (i.e. shown in figure 5 are job tickets, which have the characteristics of a certain job and these are stored with their respective job in the archive within the printer; see fig. 5; col. 5, line 7 – col. 6, line 5).

Therefore, in view of Kageyama '117, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the method step of storing characteristics of a plurality of print jobs in order to store a job ticket in the archive for a document (as stated in Kageyama '117 col. 5, lines 7-65).

Re claim 2: The teachings of Pavlovic '379 in view of Kageyama '117 are disclosed above.

However, Pavlovic '379 fails to teach the method of claim 1, wherein said characteristics are stored on a memory storage device.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Kageyama '117. Kageyama '117 discloses said characteristics are stored on a memory storage device (i.e. since the archive is used to store information inside the printer, it is understood that the archive is a memory storage device present on the printer; see fig. 5; col. 5, line 7 – col. 6, line 5).

Therefore, in view of Kageyama '117, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the method step of said characteristics are stored on a memory storage device in order to store a job ticket in the archive for a document (as stated in Kageyama '117 col. 5, lines 7-65).

Re claim 3: The teachings of Pavlovic '379 in view of Kageyama '117 are disclosed above.

Pavlovic '379 discloses the method of claim 1, wherein said characteristics comprise an image receiving media type (i.e. the job description has the type of media that will receive the image; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61), an image size, an image processing time, or an image forming time.

Re claim 4: The teachings of Pavlovic '379 in view of Kageyama '117 are disclosed above.

Pavlovic '379 discloses the method of claim 1, wherein evaluating said characteristics is carried out by a processor residing on said print device (i.e. on the printing system, the system control (108), which is considered as a controller, is used to evaluate or interpret the job description that is transmitted to the printing system; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61).

Re claim 5: The teachings of Pavlovic '379 in view of Kageyama '117 are disclosed above.

Pavlovic '379 discloses the method of claim 4, wherein said processor comprises an imaging component (i.e. in the printing system, the printer hardware (114) is considered as the imaging component since it prints the image on the sheet; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61).

Re claim 6: The teachings of Pavlovic '379 in view of Kageyama '117 are disclosed above.

Pavlovic '379 discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising forming at least one image corresponding to each of said print jobs on an image receiving media (i.e. in the system, there is at least one image that corresponds to each format in the files that are

being printed. These images are printed on a certain type of sheet that is described in the job description part of the files sent to the printer system; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61).

Re claim 7: The teachings of Pavlovic '379 in view of Kageyama '117 are disclosed above.

Pavlovic '379 discloses the method of claim 6, wherein said images are formed according to said delivery order (i.e. the images in the system are formed due to the order in which the stream handles are chosen by the system. The order of the images being formed is based on the order in which the stream handles are picked and the delivery of the print jobs to the printer hardware is the same as the delivery to the finisher; see figs. 1-3; col. 7, line 10 — col. 10, line 42).

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

7. Shiohara '754 (US Pat No 6822754) discloses a system where the information related to the print job such as the type of page used for recording, the type of printing (color or monochrome) and other attribute information that is considered when choosing where to transfer print data information to a certain printer.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chad Dickerson whose telephone number is (571)-270-1351. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. thru Thur. 9:00-6:30 Fri. 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Aung Moe can be reached on (571)-272-7314. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CD/ *CD*
Chad Dickerson
December 20, 2007

ALE
AUNG S. MOE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
12/21/07